

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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For Immediate Release

FEBRUARY 3, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, Deputy United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 30, 2004, **KERWIN D. JONES**, age 46, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois.

KERWIN JONES was sentenced to 294 months imprisonment, five years supervised release, and was fined \$400. KERWIN JONES had previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, and three counts of distribution of crack cocaine.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation and has prosecuted a number of individuals in related cases in Jefferson County Circuit Court.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Illinois State Police directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.